

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A removable internal support for a flexible container having an open end, said support comprising:

a panel of generally flat planar configuration having a first surface, a second surface, a top edge, a bottom edge, and a pair of opposed lateral edges and constructed from a first material sufficiently flexible for responding to pressure against one face thereof for deforming into a substantially cylindrical configuration; and

at least one memory retention unit being imbedded in said panel and constructed from a second material sufficiently flexible for responding to pressure thereon for deforming into said substantially cylindrical configuration and having sufficient memory characteristics for returning said panel body to its normal flat planar configuration when said pressure has been removed therefrom.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The support of claim 1 wherein said first material is a polymer.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The support of claim 1 wherein said first material is a rubber material.

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The support of claim 1 wherein said second material is spring steel.

Claim 7 (Original): The support of claim 1 wherein said panel is further defined as having at least one channel being formed therein and the number of said at least one memory retention unit being equal to the number of said at least one channel with each of said at least one memory retention units being located within said at least one channel.

Claims 8-9 (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The support of claim 7 wherein each of said at least one channel is substantially parallel to said top edge and extends along the entire length of said panel.

Claim 11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The support of claim 7 wherein said first material is a polymer.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The support of claim 7 wherein said second material is rubber.

Claim 14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The support of claim 7 wherein said second material is spring steel.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A removable internal support for a flexible container having an open end, said support comprising:

a panel of generally flat rectangular configuration having a first surface, a second surface, a top edge, a bottom edge, and a pair of lateral edges, said panel being constructed from a flexible polymer material, said panel further having two channels being formed substantially parallel to said top edge therein, said panel further having build-up material extending along each of said at least one channel such that each of said at least one channel is enclosed within said panel; and

two memory retention units made from a flexible spring steel material with both of said channels receiving one of said two memory retention units.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The support of claim 16 where each of said at least one memory retention unit has a rectangular cross-section.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The support of claim 16 where each of said at least one memory retention unit has a circular cross-section.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The support of claim 16 where each of said at least one memory retention unit extends substantially parallel to said top edge.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The support of claim 16 further comprising a plurality of gripping ridges formed out of said panel, said plurality of gripping ridges being located proximate to said top edge of said panel.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): In combination with a flexible container having an open end, a support panel for facilitating the use of said container, said support panel comprising:

a panel body of a generally flat rectangular configuration having a first surface, a second surface, a top edge, a bottom edge and a pair of lateral edges and constructed from a first material sufficiently flexible for responding to pressure against one face thereof for deforming into a substantially cylindrical configuration; and

at least one memory retention unit being imbedded in said panel body and constructed from a second material sufficiently flexible for responding to pressure thereon for deforming into said substantially cylindrical configuration and having sufficient memory characteristics for returning said panel body to its normal flat planar configuration.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): In combination with a flexible container having an open end, a support panel for facilitating the use of said container, said support panel of claim 21 wherein the construction material of the body means having sufficient memory characteristics for springing radially outwardly from said one cylindrical configuration mode to a slightly larger diametric cylindrical mode for restriction by engagement with the inside of the bag whereby the bag is retained in a fully open position by the engagement of the body means therewith for facilitating access to the interior thereof, the body means being responsive to longitudinal force applied thereto for removal thereof from the interior of the bag, the normal flat planar configuration of the body means being restored upon removal thereof from engagement with the bag.

